

Message Text

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44

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DPW-01 IO-14 AID-20 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /125 W

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P 061151Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9346

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 4504

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, LA

SUBJ: PW/MIA - LAOS

REF: (A) STATE 11831

(B) VIENTIANE 4058

(C) VIENTIANE 4434

(D) VIENTIANE 4424

1. REF A ASKS WHETHER NVA PRISONERS AT SAMKHE PRISON IN VIENTIAN ARE WILLING TO RETURN TO NVN. DEMONSTRATION REPORTED REF D INDICATES THAT THEY ARE. HOWEVER, DRV EMBASSY POSITION IS THAT PRISONERS WERE INDEED VIETNAMESE, BUT WERE "PROBABLY VIETNAMESE SOUP SELLERS ROUNDED UP IN VIENTIANE AND PERSONS OF NORTH VIETNAMESE ORIGIN ARRESTED IN SAIGON AND BROUGHT TO VIENTIANE FOR PROPAGANDA PURPOSES." LPF SPOKESMAN, SOTH PHETRASY ET AL, HAVE ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS DENIED THE EXISTENCE OF NVA FORCES AND PRISONERS IN LAOS. WE DO NOT SEE, AT THIS TIME, DRV REPRESENTATIVES ACKNOWLEDGING THE PRESENCE OF NVA PRISONERS IN LAOS AND IF PRISONERS WERE RELEASED WE ARE CERTAIN THAT THE DRV REPRESENTATIVES WOULD NOT ACCEPT THEM AS NVA.

2. UTILIZATION OF THE ICC AS AN EXCHANGE MEDIUM IS NOT FEASIBLE. WITH THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE CANADIAN DELEGATION, WE BELIEVE THE POLES AND INDIANS WOULD NOT ACCEPT CONTINGENT

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AS NVA PRISONERS SINCE TO DO SO WOULD UNDERCUT DRV POSITION

THAT THERE ARE NO NVA IN LAOS.

3. THE JCCIA, UNDER THE TERMS OF THE PROTOCOL, IS GIVEN RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE EXCHANGE OF PRISONERS. WHEN THE QUESTION OF PW/MIA WILL BE ADDRESSED BY THE JCCIA IS UNCERTAIN. SOTH PHETRASY, HEAD OF THE LPF REPRESENTATION, REF C, STATED "PW/MIA PROBLEMS WILL BE DISCUSSED LATER ALONG WITH TROOP WITHDRAWAL. THE URGENT PROBLEMS ARE PERFECTING CEASEFIRE, DEMARCATING ZONES, PROVIDING TRANSPORTATION FOR JOINT MOBILE TEAMS, ETC."

4. WE BELIEVE THAT LPF RECALCITRANCE AND ACCUSATIONS OF U.S. VIOLATIONS OF THE AGREEMENT AND PROTOCOL WILL CONTINUE FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE IN AN ATTEMPT TO FORESTALL ADDRESSING THE PW/MIA ISSUE.

WHITEHOUSE

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NNN

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